

Appl. No. 10/709,502
Amdt. dated April 17, 2006
Reply to Office action of February 02, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig.3. This sheet, which includes Fig.3, replaces the original sheets including Fig.3. In box 350 of Fig.3, the words “, than go to step 370” have been removed as required.

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet

1 page

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a full and timely response to the Office action of February 2, 2006. In this response, the drawings, specification, and claims have been amended as required by the Examiner. Additionally, independent claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to include
5 limitations not found in known prior art. Reconsideration of the drawings, specification, and all claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

1. Drawings objection

The words “, than go to step 370” have been deleted from item 350 in Fig.3 as required.
10 No new material has been introduced. Reconsideration of the drawings is respectfully requested.

2. Specification and claim objections

The applicant has made every effort to make every required change to the claims and
15 specification cited by the Examiner in this Office action. No new material has been introduced. Reconsideration of the claims and specification under these objections is respectfully requested.

3. Claim rejections

20 Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0107197 A1 to Shen et al.

It is understood that during examination, the Examiner is permitted to use broad interpretation of claim language. However, it is clear that the reference and the present invention invoke different methods and produce different results. Shen et. al teach a
25 “customized portfolio system” that allows authorized users to use a web site “to build, monitor and maintain their own design portfolio from numerous technology documents” supplied by a foundry (Paragraphs [0030]-[0032]).

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It is believed that the Examiner contends under broad interpretation that this customized portfolio is the same thing as "extracting program codes from a plurality of modules according to the selected process and the set of parameters so as to generate a corresponding command file of the group of DRC rules" as claimed when the current
5 application was filed.

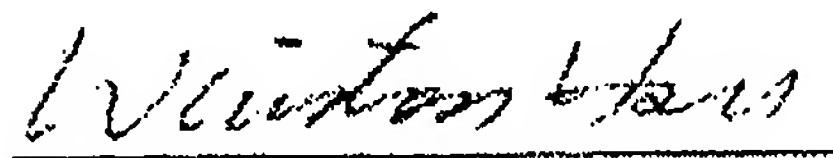
Descriptions of such "command files" can be found in Paragraph [0005] and [0006] of the current application. If the applicant understands the Examiner's suggestion correctly, while this broad of an interpretation may be subject to debate, it is clear that Shen's so-called "command file", which apparently manages details of the portfolio, is
10 not used by a verification tool to verify characteristics of an IC. True, Shen's portfolio file may reference technical documents to aid a user in understanding how verification is to be done, but a verification tool does not use the portfolio file itself. The command file that is run (Paragraph [0005] of the instant application) by a layout verification tool may even be included in the portfolio (Fig.2C-1), but is provided by the foundry (Paragraph [0042]
15 and Fig.5B-1 of Shen et. al). Furthermore, there are no teachings in the reference concerning a method of generation of the command file that is provided by the foundry and used by a verification tool, and thus, the applicant asserts that the reference does not anticipate the claims.

However, the applicant has chosen to amend independent claims 1, 6, and 11 to more
20 fully describe the generation of the command file as "combining the program codes extracted from the plurality of modules to form" the command file "to be run by the layout verification tool". These amendments are supported at least by Paragraph [0042] of the current application as published. No new material has been introduced.

25 Reconsideration of claims 1-15 under this rejection is respectfully requested.

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Sincerely yours,



Date: 04/17/2006

5 Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526
P.O. BOX 506, Merrifield, VA 22116, U.S.A.
Voice Mail: 302-729-1562
Facsimile: 806-498-6673
e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com

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